

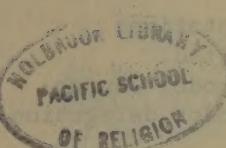
JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

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THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS IN AN EXPLOSIVE TIME

The Christian school, because it has a specific principle and purpose to refer to, has an approach to dealing with university disputes not found in public institutions, NHK commentator Keiichiro Yashiro told Christian school administrators who met in Tokyo at Rikkyo Gakuin, November 16, amid headlines about mass bargaining sessions and barricaded buildings on several campuses.

With fifty-eight universities--public and private--currently under the siege of radical student groups, and waves of student unrest beginning to hit junior and senior high schools, 100 representatives of Christian school members of the Education Association of Christian Schools met to get a deeper understanding of the complex of causes and the tangled mass of difficulties that beset attempts at settlement.

Considered the pivot of exhibitions and tests of student power is the five-month shut-down of Tokyo University, which has long been considered Japan's top educational institution and the gateway to upper-eschelon government and business positions. Identifying as a primary cause of the current student rebellion the deep-seated conservatism in the administrative organization of Todai, particularly in the medical school where trouble first broke out, Yashiro described the two streams of student activity--the pro-Japan Community Party student group and the more radical anti-Japan Communist Party group--and the eddy in which the average student finds himself caught as a result of their force. At the same time, he felt the ideological struggle which is using the student movement for its own purposes will further delay solution of the problems.

The "elite" quality which characterizes the Todai student body is, in the present situation, a negative factor, Yashiro said, because there is an overriding egoism and self-centeredness to the students' motivation for study and the lack of any unifying school spirit or principle.

By contrast, said Yashiro (who is not a Christian but is acquainted with public and private institutions and students) the Christian school has particular principles which underlie its establishment and has, in them, a potential for settling problems not present in institutions like Todai.

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Stimulated by the prominent mass media representative's analysis and challenge, the educators took another look at the situations which they are encountering on their own campuses and sensed anew that although tension may be inevitable, there are both the need for and possibility of a new vision of Christian school's role in Japanese society today and in the future.

ORTHODOX-CATHOLIC ECUMENICAL GESTURE

An Orthodox Liturgy was celebrated by the Russian Orthodox Bishop, Bishop Juvenaly, of the Moscow Patriarchate, and Bishop Nikolai Sayama of Tokyo and Japan at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Cathedral, Tokyo, Sunday, November 24.

The service was open to all who wished to attend. Representatives from various embassies and Christian groups were especially invited. The occasion coincided with the annual meeting of the Japan Orthodox Church and the visit to the Japan Orthodox Mission of the Russian Orthodox delegation headed by Bishop Juvenaly (see JCAN, November 10).

"The celebration of the Orthodox Liturgy at the Catholic cathedral was made possible through the courtesy of His Eminence Archbishop of Tokyo Cardinal Peter Tatsuo Doi in the spirit of ecumenical brotherhood that marks the relations of the Christian churches in the world today," an announcement about the service said.

JAPANESE HYMN LYRICIST WINS INTERNATIONAL ACCIAIM

Hymn lyrics written by a Japanese pastor-poet have won international recognition in the Lutheran World Federation Competition in Christian Hymn Writing, according to the November 2 issue of Christ Weekly.

The lyricist is Rev. Noriyuki Fukuda, pastor of Sakaide Church of The United Church of Christ, who has had more than 100 poems published in Japanese Christian magazines. His poems, set to music, appear in several recent Japanese hymnals.

Ooinaru Mite ("The Hands of God") the prize-winning poem, was submitted by the Japan Lutheran Hymnal Committee, set to a tune composed by Kenji Wada, whose music accompanies Mr. Fukuda's lyrics in a number of published hymns.

Fukuda, 56 years old, was born in a farm home in Kagawa prefecture, on the island of Shikoku. He attended seminary in the Kansai area and has served churches in Handa, Nagoya and Tokyo, going to the Sakaide Church after the war.

This is the first time that the work of a Japanese Christian lyricist has won such recognition, says The Christ Weekly. It is anticipated that the hymn will be used in many countries.

GIVING GENEROUS FOR MEDICINE FOR VIETNAM

"Give for medicine for Vietnamese children." The shout rang out over megaphones at street corners and train stations. It was emblazoned across the poster announcing a benefit organ and instrumental program at Yamate Church. It was imprinted on special offering envelopes distributed in churches.

An intensive campaign organized and carried out by a voluntary organization of Christians, under the chairmanship of Dr. Takeshi Takasaki, president, Tokyo Union Theological Seminary, brought a total of \$30,600 (¥11,022,128) to be sent to Vietnam for medical supplies.

Distribution will be made through the East Asia Christian Conference's Fund for the Rehabilitation of Children, Saigon; The Red Cross in Hanoi; and a NLF representative in Pnompenn, Cambodia.

More than 275 churches, 150 organizations and 200 persons helped in the seven-month campaign.

TOKUTARO KITAMURA DIES

The Japanese Christian world, along with national leaders in government and commerce, are mourning the death of Tokutaro Kitamura, who died in Kyushu Friday, November 15, at the age of 82.

Throughout his career in politics and business, Kitamura continued to be active in the Christian church and to contribute his leadership and administrative abilities to Christian organizations. Elected to the House of Representatives from Nagasaki Prefecture in 1946, Kitamura later served in various posts with the Democratic Party, including those of transport minister, finance minister, secretary general and, later, as advisor to the Liberal Democratic Party. At the time of his death he was chairman of the board of directors of Shinwa Bank, with which he had been associated for 47 years.

As an internationalist whose horizon had a wide circumference, Kitamura encouraged cultural and trade relationships between Japan and China and Russia and was active also in furthering Asia-Africa relations.

A member of the Mitake Church of The United Church of Christ, Kitamura was also chairman of the board of Kyobunkwan Publishing Co., Keiwa High School in Niigata, Tokyo Union Seminary, Keisen Girls School, Meiji Gakuin, Airinkai Social Center, and the Japan YMCA, and on the board of trustees of International Christian University, Tokyo Woman's Christian College, Rova Gakuin and Yokosuka Gakuin. Kitamura's visit to Lambarene, Africa, to see the work of Dr. Albert Schweitzer resulted in the formation of the Japan Association of the Friends of Albert Schweitzer.

Commenting upon Kitamura's life, Christ Weekly said, "There are perhaps 30 or 40 people who are called 'Christian statesmen' but among them the number of persons who attend church and fulfill their duties toward society as Christians is very small. Once they enter into the busy life of the world, they become subject to that environment, their faith becomes a matter of name only, and they become cool toward church activities." In contrast, it points. Kitamura remained personally concerned and involved with the work of the church and Christian organizations throughout his life.

SURVEY OF RELIGION IN THE DAILY PRESS

Religious organizations should cooperate more closely with newspapers in view of the press's neutral or favorable attitude toward religion, says George Olson, director of the Lutheran World Federation Broadcasting Service Tokyo Office, in a preliminary report of research on religion in Japanese- and English-language papers in Tokyo.

The survey was carried on in an effort to discover how to improve newspaper coverage of religion in the future. According to the study, from November 15 through January 14, 1968, references to Christianity (in news and advertising), numbered 816, followed by Buddhism, 413, Shinto, 225, Sokagakkai, 39 and Risshokoseikai, 25. Among references involving Christianity, 356 were of general Christian content, 261 Catholic, 178 Protestant, and 21, other classifications.

Mr. Olson notes that even though the percentage of Japanese Christians is small, Christian activities had equal or more news coverage than other religions did. He points out the frequency of Roman Catholic news originating outside of Japan compared with Protestant news from outside the country and the greater predominance of Catholic news during the holidays.

In addition to feeling that religious organizations should cooperate more closely with newspapers, Mr. Olson comments that religious schools in Japan do not seem to be receiving adequate recognition in the press.

The full report of this research will be printed in the December issue of Mass Media Research, a publication of the LWF-BS, Tokyo.

CALVIN SCHOLAR VISITS JAPAN

"Calvin's aim was not a Calvinist church but a church which is ecumenical," Dr. Wilhelm Niesel, president of the World Alliance of Reformed and Presbyterian Churches and noted Calvin scholar, told his audience in a lecture November 15 at the Shinanomachi Church, Tokyo. Dr. Niesel, for many years professor of systematic theology at the Reformed Theological Seminary at Wuppertal, Germany, stopped in Japan briefly on his way to Korea, meeting with several groups in Tokyo and the Kansai.

"Calvin was the first person in church history to practice ecumenism," said Dr. Niesel, in his lecture on "The Meaning of Calvin's Theology for Today." "He strove mightily to accomplish this during his lifetime," he said.

Asked by members of the audience about the German Church's struggle during World War II, Dr. Niesel said, "All of us--except one pastor--compromised with Hitler at some points. If we were able to do anything at all, I say it was not by ourselves but only through the grace of God."

Dr. Niesel's best known work, "The Theology of Calvin" has been translated into Japanese.

CATHOLIC CHAPLAIN URGES CHRISTIANS TO DEMONSTRATE PEACEFULLY

"Members of the Catholic Church should be involved in more social action of the peaceful demonstration-type," says Rev. Fumio Hamao, chaplain of Tokyo Catholic Students' Federation in his article in the November 17 issue of The Catholic Weekly. He refers to the action of about 50 persons, mostly Catholic students, who took part in the International Anti-War Unified Action Day demonstration October 21.

Three groups--the Christian Peace Committee of the Seijo area of Tokyo, the Tokyo Catholic Students Federation, and the Committee on Peace of the Tokyo Catholic Students Federation--joined in the "Unified Action" with the motto "Bring prayers for peace out into the streets." They are reported to have "behaved legally" throughout the demonstration.

Rev. Hamao emphasizes the importance of the mission of those Christians who would be peacemakers.